

# ACTION MEMORANDUM

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Action Memorandum No. A-74

Date 12 December 1962

TO : Deputy Director (Plans)  
Deputy Director (Research)  
Assistant Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT :

REFERENCE:

1. Attached is a copy of a memorandum from Mr. McCone dated 11 December reference intelligence collection in Cuba.
2. Please look it over, gather your thoughts, and be prepared to discuss it with me Thursday morning, 13 December.

Done -  
1 alerted JCS  


MSC

Marshall S. Carter  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy Director

### Attachment

MSC:blp

### Distribution:

Original - DD/P w/att  
1 - DD/R w/att

1 - ADD/I w/att  
1 - DDCI w/att  
1 - Executive Director w/att  
1 - ER w/o att

SUSPENSE DATE:

**SECRET**

MEMORANDUM FROM MR. McCONE, 11 December 1962

I continue to be concerned over the danger of placing undue reliance on photography. We seem to be drifting into a frame of mind that high-level photography is all we need, that it will show everything that must be seen, that it is preferable to on-site inspection, that really on-site inspection is undesirable because it would be impartially conducted and the institution of it would automatically end over-flights and that there is little to be gained from low over-flights.

I wish General Carter and appropriate members of the staff to consider this very seriously and to discuss it at the level of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and NRO to be sure that we are not becoming overly dependent upon aerial photography and so run the risk of making a serious error. I would like this taken up at once and reported back not later than Monday, December 17th. Also I would like to personally discuss this with the Joint Chiefs and the President prior to leaving for the West Coast on December 21st.

**SECRET**